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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,286	08/02/2001	Xiaobin Zhao	0623.1110001/JMC/MGP	3882

26111 7590 11/25/2002

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, PATRICK T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2002

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,286

Applicant(s)

ZHAO, XIAOBIN

Examiner

Patrick T. Lewis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 15-19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 14 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7, 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

D tailed Action

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed herein.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 10 depends from claim 9 which is drawn to process of claim 1 wherein the cross-linking of each type of functional group is effected sequentially. Claim 10 is drawn to the process of claim 9 wherein HA is cross-linked via a first functional group and subsequently further cross-linked via a second chemical entity. The examiner interprets the "sequential steps" of the process as being performed by cross-linking HA via a first functional group and subsequently further cross-linking said HA via a second chemical entity.

3. Claims 13-14 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Applicant is advised that should claim 15 be found allowable, claim 16 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both

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cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim.

See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-12, 15-19, and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for double cross-linked HA, does not reasonably provide enablement for multiple cross-linked HA wherein more than two chemically distinct cross-links between HA molecules are present. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims without undue experimentation.

Undue experimentation is a conclusion reached by weighing the noted factual considerations set forth below as seen in *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988). A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding each of the factors below, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

The factors include, but are not limited to:

1. The breadth of the claims,
2. The nature of the invention,
3. The state of the prior art,
4. The level of one of ordinary skill,
5. The level of predictability in the art,
6. The amount of direction provided by the inventor,
7. The existence of working examples, and
8. The quantity of experimentation needed to make and/or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

Claims 1-12 are drawn to a process for preparing multiple cross-linked derivatives of hyaluronic acid comprising covalently cross-linking HA via two or more different functional groups, wherein said cross-linking is effected by contacting HA with one or more chemical cross-linking agents so as to form two or more chemically distinct cross-links, between said HA molecules. Claims 15-19 and 21 are drawn to multiple cross-linked derivatives of hyaluronic acid wherein HA is cross-linked by two or more chemically distinct entities.

The nature of the invention requires a close look at that which is provided in the claims and the scope of the content encompassed by the claim language. The instantly claimed invention relates to multiple cross-linked derivatives of hyaluronic acid comprising covalently cross-linking HA via two or more different functional groups.

Cross-linked HA is known in the art. Balazs et al. U.S. Patent 4,582,865 teaches cross-linked gels of hyaluronic acid. HA cross-linked via ester bonds are taught by della Valle et al. U.S. 4,957,744.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would be an organic or polymer chemist having a M.S. degree or higher.

The instant specification is not seen to provide adequate guidance which would allow the skilled artisan to extrapolate from the disclosure and examples provided to enable the making of cross-linked HA wherein the HA molecules are cross-linked via more than two chemically distinct entities. The specification does not teach cross-linking of HA via more than two chemically distinct entities or bonds.

The working examples in the instant specification are limited the production of double cross-linked HA.

Indeed, in view of the information set forth supra, the instant disclosure is not seen to be sufficient to enable the preparation ^{of} multiple cross-linked HA wherein more than two chemically distinct cross-links between HA molecules are present.

7. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for cross-linked HA in the form of a film or gel, does not reasonably provide enablement for all products comprising said cross-lined HA. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims without undue experimentation.

Undue experimentation is a conclusion reached by weighing the noted factual considerations set forth below as seen in *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988). A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding each of the factors below, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

The factors include, but are not limited to:

1. The breadth of the claims,
2. The nature of the invention,
3. The state of the prior art,
4. The level of one of ordinary skill,
5. The level of predictability in the art,
6. The amount of direction provided by the inventor,
7. The existence of working examples, and
8. The quantity of experimentation needed to make and/or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

Claim 21 is drawn to multiple cross-linked derivatives of hyaluronic acid wherein HA is cross-linked by two or more chemically distinct entities.

The nature of the invention requires a close look at that which is provided in the claims and the scope of the content encompassed by the claim language. The instantly claimed invention relates to multiple cross-linked derivatives of hyaluronic acid comprising covalently cross-linking HA via two or more different functional groups.

Cross-linked HA is known in the art. Balazs et al. U.S. Patent 4,582,865 teaches cross-linked gels of hyaluronic acid. HA cross-linked via ester bonds are taught by della Valle et al. U.S. 4,957,744.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would be an organic or polymer chemist having a M.S. degree or higher.

The instant specification is not seen to provide adequate guidance which would allow the skilled artisan to extrapolate from the disclosure and examples provided to enable the making of products of cross-linked HA wherein the HA molecules are cross-linked via more than two chemically distinct entities.

The working examples in the instant specification are limited the production of double cross-linked HA. There are no examples of products comprising multiple cross-linked HA.

Indeed, in view of the information set forth supra, the instant disclosure is not seen to be sufficient to enable the preparation of products comprising multiple cross-linked HA wherein more than two chemically distinct cross-links between HA molecules are present.

Conclusion

8. Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-12, 15-19, and 21 are rejected. Claims 13-14 and 20 are objected to. No claims are allowed.

Contacts

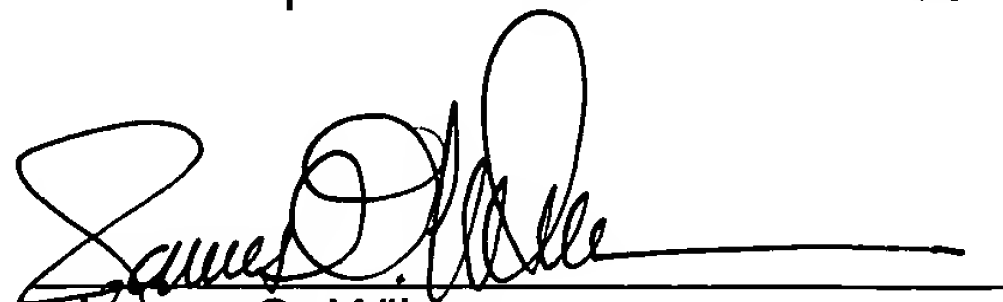
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick T. Lewis whose telephone number is 703-305-4043. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson can be reached on 703-308-4624. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Patrick T. Lewis, PhD
Examiner
Art Unit 1623



James O. Wilson
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600

ptl
November 22, 2002